CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Puss caterpillar

Megalopyge opercularis

The puss caterpillar, also known as the southern flannel moth larva, is one of the most venomous caterpillars in North America. Covered in long, silky hair that resembles a Persian cat, its soft appe…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Megalopygidae
Habitat: Deciduous forests and wooded urban areas
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 2-3 weeks (larval stage)
Weight: 0.5–1.5 grams
Scientific name: Megalopyge opercularis

Did you know?

- The pain from a puss caterpillar sting has been compared to a broken bone or blunt-force trauma, making it one of the most painful stings of any Nort…
- The puss caterpillar's sting can cause symptoms ranging from localized pain and swelling to nausea and difficulty breathing. Despite their dangerous …

What I learned

© Creature Atlas · www.creatureatlas.com · Free for classroom & personal use